



DELAWARE GRANDPARENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR GRANDCHILDREN

Thousands of children live in mixed-generation families or solely with their grandparents in the state of Delaware. In 2000, there were 16,689 grandparents living in households with their grandchildren, which constitutes about 8% of all households with children under the age of 18. Approximately 4% (7,204) of grandparents in households with children under the age of 18 are financially responsible for their grandchildren. In the state, the areas with the highest percentage of intergenerational households include Wilmington with 16.2%, Wilmington Manor with 14%, Middletown and Selbyville with 12% of households. The lowest concentration of intergenerational families can be found in places such as Rehoboth (0%), Lewes (2%), and Newark (2 %).

When it comes to grandparents who live with their grandchildren

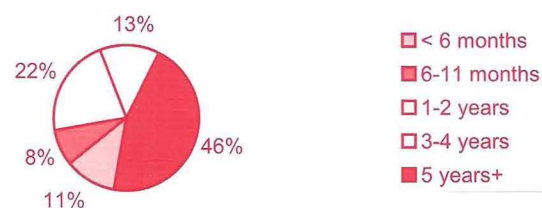
The U.S. Census bureau defines "grandparents responsible for grandchildren" as grandparents who have assumed financial responsibility for food, shelter, clothing, day care, etc. for their grandchildren on a temporary or permanent live-in basis

and who are financially responsible for their grandchildren, the highest concentration can be found in Selbyville (10%), Delmar (8%), Georgetown (8%), and Wilmington (7%).

The lowest percentage of grandparents responsible for their grandchildren is most obviously Rehoboth with 0%, where there are not even any children living in families including their grandparents. Hockessin (1%), and Newark (0.1%) also have a low concentration.

Of the 16,689 grandparents who live with their grandchildren, 43% are also financially responsible for them. Almost half of these grandparents have been financially responsible for their grandchildren for five or more years.

DE Grandparents Responsible for their Grandchildren, by Length of Time Responsible, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

For grandparents assuming financial as well as primary parenting roles, the stresses can be pronounced because of their developmental stage in life, family situation and the extra burden on resources. Also, as some grandparents are retired, or heading towards retirement, the extra financial burden of rearing children can have an impact on their savings, or ability to retire as planned. It is important for grandparents in this situation to have support in their endeavors whether through support groups or other informal means, or with the help of state programs such as Medicaid and childcare subsidies.

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts a census of the population every ten years. The most recent was completed in April 2000. This series of reports highlights information most relevant for community leaders, policy makers, advocates, and others concerned with the status of children and families in Delaware. Additional Census information can be found with the Center for Applied Demography and Survey Research at <http://cadsr.udel.edu> for Delaware specific census data, or with the Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT Census Data Online at <http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/census>.

DE GRANDPARENTS LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH THEIR GRANDCHILDREN

City/Town	Total Family Households With Children Under Age 18	Grandparents In Households with their Grandchildren Under Age 18		Grandparents responsible for Grandchildren Under Age 18	
		Number	% of all Households With Children	Number	% of all Households With Children
New Castle County					
Arden Village	100	10	10%	6	6%
Bear	4,525	307	7%	113	2%
Brookside CDP	1,357	43	3%	22	2%
Claymont CDP	2,391	182	8%	70	3%
Glasgow CDP	3,517	184	5%	64	2%
Hockessin	3,680	172	5%	27	1%
Middletown	1,691	199	12%	143	8%
Newark City	4,657	97	2%	7	0.1%
New Castle	1,375	132	10%	52	4%
Pike Creek CDP	5,183	281	5%	91	2%
Wilmington City	15,948	2,584	16%	1,118	7%
Wilmington Manor CDP	2,188	299	14%	134	6%
Kent County					
Camden	651	43	7%	22	3%
Dover	7,468	690	9%	332	4%
Harrington	851	75	9%	28	3%
Milford	1,774	138	8%	92	5%
Smyrna	1,407	82	6%	26	2%
Wyoming	330	23	7%	10	3%
Sussex County					
Bridgeville	397	21	5%	13	3%
Delmar	329	34	10%	26	8%
Georgetown	994	92	9%	79	8%
Laurel	1,011	97	10%	27	3%
Lewes	816	14	2%	10	1%
Millsboro	613	50	8%	24	4%
Rehoboth	325	0	0%	0	0%
Seaford	1,575	81	5%	32	2%
Selbyville	464	54	12%	47	10%
Delaware	205,775	16,689	8%	7,204	4%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 1990 Census.

Note: The U.S. Census Bureau defines grandparents responsible for grandchildren as grandparents who have assumed financial responsibility for food, shelter, clothing, day care etc. of their grandchildren on a temporary or permanent live-in basis.

CDP (Census Designated Place) is a statistical area defined for a census as a densely settled concentration of population that is not incorporated but which resembles an incorporated place in that it can be identified with a name.